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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to urge you REJECT the petition by US Telecom (AT&T) to escape their obligations under Section 251 of the Communications Act.

If granted, this petition would stifle real, healthy market competition in the telecom world and continue to restrict many Americans' access to broadband. Prices would rise, and many schools, public safety organizations, rural residents, and folks like me would lose their access to high speed internet connectivity at a reasonable cost. Many Americans would lose their broadband access altogether. This is unacceptable, especially when the only benefit is to AT&T shareholders.

As a tech worker, fast connectivity is crucial to my career success. I cannot bear the price increases that would follow a granting of this petition and the subsequent strengthening monopoly/duopoly of large providers. The options for my connectivity would decrease and I'd be forced to use inferior service from large providers that have no interest in staying competitive on price or service.

Rural communities need access that the large providers aren't making available. Schools, libraries, hospitals, and public safety organizations depend on existing local providers for access. The greedy request by US Telecom would undermine this access. You must reject it.

Section 251 has spurred lots of new fiber installation and other growth in the sector, and that is increasing exponentially. Now AT&T wants to derail that to squash competition and prevent it from having to provide acceptable service at reasonable prices.

The US lags far behind much of the world due to the stranglehold that the large ISPs have on our government. If you believe in fair competition and benefit to all Americans over a couple of large companies' profits, you must reject this petition. Anything less is un-American.

Thank you.

Bill Kristy